AG Bruning: Brian Schuster Pleads to Securities Fraud

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LINCOLN - Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced Brian Schuster pleaded no contest to four counts of securities fraud in Gage County District Court. Schuster's former business partner, Rebecca Engle, pleaded guilty on two counts of securities fraud last week.

"More than 100 Nebraskans trusted Mr. Schuster and Ms. Engle to invest money they had worked a lifetime to save," said Bruning. "They both deserve to pay for their crime of swindling money from Nebraska seniors."

The Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance conducted an investigation which showed that Engle and Schuster sold high-risk securities to around 150 Nebraskans without disclosing key risks or warnings associated with the those securities. The securities were from two Florida-based companies, American Capital Corporation and Royal Palm Capital Group, Inc. The companies were start-up entities with limited operating histories. Both are no longer in business.

Engle and Schuster were previously registered as broker-dealer agents with Capital Growth Financial with offices in Nebraska City and Syracuse. The total combined loss to Nebraska families investing in the two companies is estimated at more than \$20 million.

Fraudulent Acts/Practices in Connection with Offer, Sale or Purchase of Securities is a Class IV felony with a penalty of up to five years in jail, a \$10,000 fine or both.